

AUG 15 2016

U.S. EPA  
ATTN: Harbor Comments  
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Portland, OR 97205

EPA-REGION 10

The EPA's suggested plan for cleaning up the Willamette River will do more harm than good. Digging up the entire river floor, putting it in trucks and transporting it to a landfill could re-contaminate the river and the marine life within it and hinder or reverse the progress that has been made to date. Recent scientific studies of the river from 2014 suggest a forty percent reduction in contamination from natural processes has occurred. This is tremendous progress over the course of the ten years since the EPA did their 2004 study. Unfortunately, the EPA has opted not to include this updated information in their project information for cleaning up the Willamette. Instead of putting forth a less costly, less invasive plan, the EPA went forward with a plan that will cost over \$700 million.

We enjoy going to events that are on the river. Local businesses rely on residents and tourists coming into this area to patronize their establishments. The economy is already weak. Placing a gigantic construction zone in a money-making area for decades won't help. The river would be off-limits to recreation, boating, and business activities while the work is going on, which poses a tremendous economic threat. The project is estimated to take around seven years, but it could go on for much longer.

We don't need to use a plan that relies on data that is more than a decade old, and refuses to incorporate the most current information. It's spending money that we don't need to spend. We could spend that money on infrastructure, helping the homeless, and numerous other beneficial projects.

As a retiree, I'm on a fixed income. It would negatively affect my family and many other families if taxes were to increase or if our utility bills were to go up. It's hard to adjust for such increases. We shouldn't be on the hook for the excessive costs of a project that clearly doesn't have the best interest of the Portland area in mind. I don't understand why we should be required to do something that other cities that have contaminated rivers running through them have not been asked to do by the EPA.

Stop this current plan, and reconfigure the cleanup process. Put the well-being of the people of Portland first, so that we can move forward with the most appropriate method for decontaminating the river. We can create a much more cost-effective solution that doesn't require decades of dredging and economic turmoil. We need to stop this plan.

Sincerely,

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